



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Medicaid Purchasing Administration
626 8th Avenue, S.E. • P.O. Box 45502
Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

December 2, 2010

Dear Medicaid Client:

In the next few days, you will receive a letter from the Medicaid program outlining budget cuts that have been scheduled to begin on January 1, 2011.

Since that letter was printed and prepared for mailing, one thing has changed. The hospice benefit, which you are receiving or have qualified for, has been removed from the list of cuts by Governor Christine Gregoire.

This means the hospice benefit will NOT be eliminated on January 1, 2011.

The Governor acted after her budget office concluded that cutting the hospice benefit would create an extreme hardship on clients.

We regret that this action did not come in time to correct the original letter, which is bound by the time requirements needed for translation and client notification; however, we are mailing this letter on an expedited basis in hopes it will prevent confusion and misunderstanding when the other letter arrives.

To recap, the Governor has ruled that the elimination of this benefit will not be part of her budget recommendations, currently expected the week of December 13, 2010. Her decision does not preclude the Legislature from reinstating the cut, but we will notify you as quickly as possible if that should occur.

If you have questions about the hospice benefit, please call 1-800-562-3022 or e-mail askmedicaid@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Preston W. Cody, Director
Division of Healthcare Services
Basic Health